



Department of State

Pol 14 VietS (1584)
TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DDDE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAF-00 NSC-10 P-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 IO-11 UPW-01 RSR-01 1074 W
073787

O R 021505Z SEP 71 ZFF-1

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9498

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USDEL FRANCE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMCONSUL DANANG

UNCLAS SAIGON 14152

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY John J. [signature] DATE 1/26/82

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SUB: SPEECH BY PRESIDENT THIEU ON ELECTION

1. PRESIDENT THIEU SPOKE TO THE NATION ON TV FOR 30 MINUTES BEGINNING AT 8:30 P.M. SEPTEMBER 2 AND EXPLAINED HIS INTENTION TO GO AHEAD WITH AN UNCONTESTED ELECTION ON OCTOBER 3. FOLLOWING ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS. FULL TEXT WILL FOLLOW.

2. THIEU FIRST REVIEWED THE CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND THEN LISTED THE MAJOR RESULTING PROBLEMS AS:

A. WITHDRAWAL OF MINH AND KY SLATES LEAVING THIEU AS THE ONLY CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION.

B. CHARGES OF ELECTION RIGGING BY THE OPPOSITION.

C. VICE PRESIDENT KY'S PROPOSAL FOR RESIGNATION AND NEW ELECTIONS IN ACCORD WITH ARTICLE 56 OF THE CONSTITUTION (ACCEPTANCE OF WHICH THIEU SAID WOULD BE "IRRESPONSIBLE" AND "ADVENTUROUS".)

D. QUESTION WHETHER OR NOT TO HOLD ELECTIONS.

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EM AFTER DISCUSSING VARIOUS LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL OPTIONS ON ELECTIONS, AND DEPLORING FACT THAT ELECTION WOULD NOT BE CONTESTED, THIEU ANNOUNCED HE HAD DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH ELECTION AS SCHEDULED ON OCTOBER 3. HE SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER ELECTION AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PEOPLE TO EXPRESS CONFIDENCE OR LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN HIM AND HIS POLICIES. HE THEN SAID: "IF I SEE THE RESULTS OF THIS OCTOBER 3 VOTING CONFIRM THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE IN ME I WILL CONTINUE WITH ANOTHER FOUR YEAR TERM, BUT IF THE RESULTS OF THE COMING OCTOBER VOTING SHOW CLEARLY THAT THE PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE CONFIDENCE IN ME, I OF MY OWN WILL WILL NOT ACCEPT ANOTHER FOUR YEAR TERM."

4. THE PRESIDENT PROMISED THAT DURING THE CAMPAIGN THOSE OPPOSED TO HIM WOULD HAVE FULL OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK OUT FREELY, IF DONE TEMPERATELY AND WITHIN THE LAW.

5. THIEU ASSERTED THAT IF CONFIRMED IN OFFICE BY THE ELECTION RESULTS, HE WILL DEDICATE HIMSELF TO RESTORING PEACE, AND IF AT ANY TIME A PEACEFUL END TO THE WAR IS ACHIEVED, HE WILL ASK THE PEOPLE'S PERMISSION TO STEP DOWN AND RETURN PRIVATE LIFE.
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